



Vigo County History Center

February 24, 2021 · 🌐



The History Museum is proud to share with you these amazing tributes to the history of our African American community.

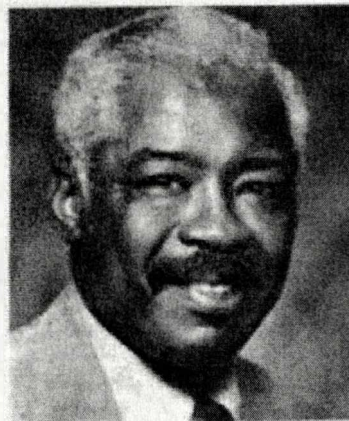
This one is in honor of a great man and outstanding Veterinarian. Dr. Iverson Bell (1916-1984) moved to Terre Haute with his wife in 1950. Here, he opened the Bell Pet Clinic at 1543 Elm Street. When that building was destroyed in a 1978 fire, Bell rebuilt with the opening of the Bell Animal Hospital in Honey Creek West.

The list of achievements Iverson Bell saw in the course of his career could fill this entire post! To name a few: he was influential in developing a veterinary medicine display in the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, he was a member of the board of directors for the Vigo County Library, Co-founder of the Foundation for Public Education, member of the Vigo County Board of School Trustees, and was granted the Indiana Outstanding Boardmanship Award in 1978. But it wasn't his many accolades that won him a place in the hearts of all who knew him. It was his selfless dedication to his patients and commitment to this community. He always took the time to show true compassion toward not just his four legged patients, but also to the people who loved them.

Dr. Bell was a mentor and a generous giver. He was actively involved in local education and genuinely sought to support Vigo County youth. Many have spoken kindly of his impact on their lives. This hometown hero was well respected by others in his profession as well as by those in his community.

Brother IVERSON BELL entered Omega Chapter, Tuesday, May 22, 1984 in his home at Terre Haute, Indiana following a brief illness.

Brother Bell was born October 12, 1916 in DeKalb, Texas where he received his elementary and secondary education. He earned his doctorate in Veterinary Medicine in the late 1940's from Michigan State University. Brother Bell was owner of the Bell Animal Hospital in Terre Haute, one of four black veterinarians in the state of Indiana and had practiced veterinary medicine for over thirty years.



He was a member of Second Baptist Church, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the United Fund, Vigo County Rotary Club, The Air Pollution Control Board, Vice Chairman of the Terre Haute Housing Authority and a member of the Indiana Criminal Justice Planning Agency. Dr. Bell was Vice President of the American Veterinary Medical Association and former Indiana School Board President. He served in numerous other positions, assisting the community at large and in particular the youth. He believed in giving all his spirit to everything in which he was involved.

Funeral rites were conducted in the Russel Mortuary on May 25, 1984 by Iota Lambda Chapter.

He is survived by his wife Ethel; two daughters, Susan E. Bell and Allayne Bell-Taylor; two sons, Clayton E. and Iverson Jr.; two sisters, Virgie Bracy and Eloise Barrett; two grand children and other dear relatives and friends.



THE NEW SCHOOL BOARD—Members of the new school board and the new officers who were elected at Friday night's session: Front row from left: William Llewellyn, vice president; Peter Farmer, president; Mrs. Charlotte Caldwell and Dr. William Kessel. Standing from left: John Sutherland, deputy secretary; Paul D. Haas, secretary, and Dr. Iverson Bell, retiring president.

Martin Photo.

Terre Haute Tribune, Terre Haute, Indiana, US

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